

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MERGING TOPICALLY  
RELATED E-MAIL IN A COLLABORATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

**ABSTRACT**

A mechanism is presented for merging e-mail messages into a collated file.  
5 An e-mail message and its associated responses may be accessed and collated based  
on a selected pattern for responses. The set of e-mails may be collated into a single  
document with the responses associated with the particular message to which the  
response is directed. Using pattern matching operations in an iterative fashion, a  
response may be associated with the message that elicited the response whether the  
10 original message or a previous response. The form of association may be user  
selectable.

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